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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

[redacted]

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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

6 December 1960

Redacted by Jon

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Basic Policy Concerning [redacted]

1. In order to enhance the achievement of the desired goals at the earliest date and for the reasons we have discussed, I believe that it is necessary that there be a recognition within the Air Staff and the various Commands of the following features of the revised [redacted] program:

a. The program should be regarded as an R&D program aimed at the exploitation of various promising reconnaissance techniques.

b. This R&D program nevertheless will include all the necessary elements to insure that the data which is obtained can be efficiently and promptly exploited.

c. The nature and character of an ultimate operational system is completely conditioned upon the success of the methods which will be exploited in the R&D program. Accordingly, effective operational planning cannot be accomplished at this time.

2. In our review of the entire effort it has become abundantly clear that major resources are being expended in directions which bear little or no connection with the new direction of the R&D program. There is a startling lack of knowledge and familiarity with the re-oriented program. Many unfortunate remarks were made publicly and reported in the press. These only serve to make the accomplishment of our goals more difficult. I have discussed with General Lauinum the details of a public relations plan which would tend to promote the most favorable climate for the full development of this capability. It is essential that the staff and the commands be informed as to our policy in this regard.

3. In view of the major effort now being expended in misdirected fashion I think it is essential to eliminate the obsolete documentation in regard to [redacted] and to release at a later date when clear direction can be given. Specifically, I would recommend the following:

a. [redacted] for the time being should not be included in the Program Documents (example: PG, PD) described in AFM 27-1.

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b. [redacted] project information will be furnished as necessary for legislative matters and for your Policy Book by the Director of the Office of Missile and Satellite Systems.

c. The Director of the Office of Missile and Satellite Systems will have the responsibility to keep key elements of the Air Staff and the commands completely informed as to the program. Normal monitoring by the Weapons Board system is unnecessary and no reviews or analyses should be undertaken by the various groups, panels, boards and committees.

d. Documents reflecting Air Force requirements for reconnaissance should continue to be prepared and should be submitted to the USIB for consideration in [redacted] project requirements.

e. The [redacted] Working Group should be dissolved.

4. I believe that the above is necessary in order to eliminate wasted effort and to insure that the reorientation of the program is effectively accomplished.

(Signed)
JOSEPH V. CHARYK
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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